

Four children drown in two districts

METRO DESK

Four children, including two of a family, drowned in Pabna and Gaibandha on Thursday evening and yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Pabna adds: Two children of a family drowned in a pond at Jugipara village in the town on Thursday evening.

The victims are Rahul Hossain, 7, son of Abdul Kuddus and Rohan Hossain, 6, son of Kuddus' brother Abdur Rahman.

The bodies recovered from a pond near the residence at the evening on Thursday.

Family sources said Rahul and Rohan went missing at noon. Later, their bodies were found in the pond near their residence after a hectic search in the evening.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha adds: Two children drowned in separate incidents in Sadullapur Upazila yesterday.

In an incident, two-year-old Moushumi Sultana, daughter of Mokbul Hossain of Joyenpur village in Sadullapur Upazila drowned in a nearby pond when she fell into it while playing.

In another incident, Moinul Hossain, 5, son of Taffazal Hossain Mia of Burirvita village in Sadullapur Upazila was taking bath in a pond and suddenly met the tragic end in the water.



Green Mind, Krishni Parishad and WBB Trust form a human chain at Azimpur intersection in the city yesterday demanding a rise in taxes on tobacco and its products.

PHOTO: STAR

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 40th death anniversary of martyred intellectual Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, a chief engineer of the Chittagong Port Trust, says a press release.

On this day during the War of Liberation, Pakistan army took him away from his office. His whereabouts cannot be known ever since after he was picked up.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Nasir Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Journalist Mohammad Nasir Uddin, the editor of the Shaogat and founder of the weekly Begum, says a press release.

On the occasion, a memorial meeting, destitute feeding programme, qurkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 38, Sharatgupta Road of Narinda in the city.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Amjad Hossain Sarker, an employee of Sadullapur Upazila Parishad, passed away at his residence yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 55, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and host of relatives.

His namaz-e-janaza was held after Juma prayers and buried at his family graveyard.

Qulkhwani of Rawshan Ara today

Bss, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Begum Rawshan Ara Zobaida Khanam, wife of Justice TH Khan, a former minister and senior lawyer of Bangladesh Supreme Court, will be held at Kisholoy Girls High School at Tajmahal Road of Mohammadpur in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers of the deceased have been requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Rawshan Ara, mother of Afzal H Khan, a former MP and ex-news editor of The Daily Star, passed away due to old-age complications at the age of 80 on May 17.

But he indicated that the

Teacher among 2 electrocuted

METRO DESK

Two people, including a school teacher, were electrocuted in Mymensingh and Dinajpur yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh adds: A school teacher was electrocuted at Dhubaura upazila headquarters yesterday morning.

Aminul Islam, Jewel, 35, of Bowla village in Phulpur upazila, was a physical teacher of Dhubaura Bahumukhi High School.

Police said Aminul was electrocuted as he came in touch with an electric wire when he was setting TV antenna around 9:00am. He died on the spot.

Our Correspondent from Dinajpur says: A middle-aged man was electrocuted after he climbed up a mango tree for plucking mangoes in Phultola village in the town yesterday noon.

The deceased was identified as Main Uddin 50, son of late Tafir Uddin of village Phultola in Sadar upazila.

Witnesses said Main Uddin climbed up a mango tree in front of Dinajpur Shishu Park at noon. As an electric wire of PDB passed through the tree he suddenly came into contact with the wire. He died instantly.

Fire Brigade men rushed to the spot and brought down the body.

Section 144 imposed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Local administration imposed section 144 on Rajarhat Vocational and Commerce College premises and its surrounding areas for 12 hours as two rival groups of local BNP called separate meetings yesterday at the same time and same venue.

Police said Rajarhat upazila Sechchhasebak Dal called their biannual council meeting on the college premises at 3:00pm while Rajarhat Chhattri Dal called workers' meeting at the same venue at same time.

Later, Upazila Executive Magistrate and UNO Md Rahenul Islam imposed the ban from 12:01pm to 11:59pm to avoid any untoward incident.

Police said Muklesur was killed when a Dhaka-bound bus from Mymensingh ran over him on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Nishinda.

In another accident, the unidentified woman aged about 55 was killed as a Dhaka-bound bus crushed her while she was crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

Road crashes kill 5, injure 4

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and four others injured in Mymensingh, Pabna, Chittagong and Barisal on Thursday and yesterday.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: At least two people including a woman were killed in two separate road accidents in Bhaluka yesterday.

One of the deceased are Muklesur Rahman, 35, of village Nishinda in Bhaluka and the identity of the woman could not be known immediately.

Police said Muklesur was killed when a Dhaka-bound bus from Mymensingh ran over him on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Nishinda.

In another accident, the unidentified woman aged about 55 was killed as a Dhaka-bound bus crushed her while she was crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

way at Masterbari in Bhaluka.

Our Pabna correspondent says: An elderly man was killed when a speedy bus hit his motorcycle on Dhaka-Pabna highway at Rajapur village in Sadar upazila on Thursday evening.

The deceased is identified as Easin Ali, 60, of village Rajapur.

BSS from Chittagong adds: A man was killed and four others were injured as a Chittagong-bound auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a covered van at Maizyartek also spoke.

Prof Ajoy Kumar Das, Prof ANM Rois Uddin, Prof Sukomal Barua, Prof Reverend Father Benjamin Di Kosta and Ramkrishna Mission Assistant Secretary Sthirattanondaji Moharaj also spoke.

10 Myanmar citizens held

Bss, Rangamati

Police arrested ten citizens of Myanmar from Lama upazila of the district in separate raids on Thursday.

They were living in different places in Lama for a long time, police said.

Gas compressors in limbo

FROM PAGE 1

which is pursuing a host of gas sector deals with Russia, sought two compressors from Russia, specifically for Ashuganj and Elenga. This implies that the on-going tender would have to be shelved, and therefore, the possibility of having these compressors would become bleak.

Additionally, this would create a conflict with the ADB, which is unaware of the government's plans to shelf the on-going tender at its matured stage, officials said.

But prime minister's energy adviser Tawfiq Elahi Chowdhury told The Daily Star on two occasions that the government sought the two compressors from Russia not to cancel the ongoing GTCL tender, but to further reinforce the gas transmission system. The country needed more compressors to boost gas supplies especially in the southwestern region, he said.

The Petrobangla chairman added, "In fact, the tender recommendations will be placed at the next board meeting."

He pointed out that Russian state company Gazprom was a leading compressor manufacturer. It had installed 572 compressors in Europe. "They have compressors ready to be installed by September-October 2012," he said.

Tawfiq said he was supervising the compressor project as irregularities in the past had marred two tender processes.

He said this is happening once again.

On Monday, Petrobangla and the GTCL took a visiting Russian technical team to Ashuganj-Elenga compressor sites.

About this, Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur told The Daily Star, "A nine-member Russian team consisting of five experts dealing with compressors have visited Ashuganj-Elenga sites."

Asked if the Ashuganj-Elenga compressors would be installed by Russia instead of an open tender winner, he said, "This is a government decision which has not been taken as yet. This (the Russian deal) has not gone up to that level."

He indicated that a Bangladeshi team of

on-going tender might be scrapped by saying, "If their (Russian) proposal is financially competitive, they will get the job."

When pointed out that Tawfiq had said at a press conference the Russian compressors would be installed in the southwestern region, Hussain Monsur said the ADB-funded tender had not been cancelled and "We need more compressors, that's why we have sought Russian help."

He did not explain why the Russian team did not visit the southwestern region, if that was what the government wanted. But he again said, "The ongoing tender has not been suspended. This is being delayed due to technical issues."

The Petrobangla chairman added, "In fact, the tender recommendations will be placed at the next board meeting."

He pointed out that Russian state company Gazprom was a leading compressor manufacturer. It had installed 572 compressors in Europe. "They have compressors ready to be installed by September-October 2012," he said.

The compressors are vital for improving the country's gas transmission flow and pressure.

A Petrobangla source involved in the negotiations with the Russians said Petrobangla was doing this hoping that getting the Russian compressors under a government deal would save a lot of time.

The first tender was cancelled by the ADB in 2006 when it smelt foul play in the GTCL tender process. Back then, the ADB investigated the process, and based on its findings, it blacklisted a foreign compressor manufacturing company from future participation in ADB-funded projects.

The main opposition considered three routes--Dhaka to Chittagong, Dhaka to Sylhet and Dhaka to North Bengal. The party's national standing committee will finally decide on one route for the programme, said party insiders.

A group of senior and mid-level leaders are working on the plan. They are trying to

Mamata sworn in as W Bengal CM

FROM PAGE 1

in Bengali. Asked how she was feeling after becoming the chief minister, Mamata quipped, "Yes I am a chief minister. I would better prefer to be called a commoner."

Petrobangla believes that a deal with Russia could bring the compressors faster than the ADB-funded tender process. But some officials brush aside such high hopes. They say the government could not complete the nuclear power deal with Russia in the last two years, and there is no instance where Petrobangla or any government agencies could demonstrate it was possible to strike a deal in the shortest possible time.

Gazprom has been negotiating with the government over a wide array of energy sector cooperation. This includes fast track drilling of gas wells in Titas, Rashidpur, Semutang, Begumganj, Shahbazpur and Sundarpur. Gazprom will also enter into joint venture with Bapex and help Bangladesh build its capacity. In addition, the company has been requested to install two gas compressors.

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